U.S. History Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Immigration Today: Fact and Fiction**

**CORRECTED WITH FACTS**

**Directions:**

For each statement below, decide if you think it is a true fact, or if it is fiction. If it is fiction, you will correct the underlined part of the statement (with the class) to make it a true fact.

Sources of information: PBS NewshourExtra, CATO Institute, Center for Immigration Studies, Pew Research Center

1. There are currently about 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S.

FACT

1. Most of the immigrants in the U.S. are here without authorization.

FICTION – there are about 43 million legal immigrants living in the U.S.

1. The number of unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. has been increasing over the past ten years.

FICTION – the number has decreased by about one million over the past decade

1. About half of all unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. are originally from Mexico.

FACT – this has decreased in recent years. Immigration from Asia and Central America has increased.

1. Most unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. do not pay taxes.

FICTION – All pay sales taxes and property taxes (perhaps through rent). Many pay payroll taxes like income and social security too, but don’t get the benefits of those deductions.

1. Most unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. have been living here for at least 10 years.

FACT – About 66% have been here for at least that long

1. The most common area of work for unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. is farming.

FACT – About 25% of farmers are unauthorized immigrants. Other top areas of employment are construction, leisure/hospitality, and domestic services

1. The state with the highest number of unauthorized immigrants is Texas.

FICTION – California is highest, then Texas, Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Illiinois

1. Maine has a relatively low number of unauthorized immigrants.

FACT – it ranks 46th out of 50 states on that list

1. Immigrants are more likely to commit crimes than U.S.-born citizens.

FICTION – Foreign-born residents commit less crime that U.S.-born citizens, and are unauthorized immigrants are half as likely to be in jail as U.S. citizens.